

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 03262 01 OF 02 281808Z

46

ACTION EUR-08

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USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS SECRET 3262

LIMDIS

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - FIFTH PLENARY OF SECOND ROUND

REF: (A) ATHENS 3175; (B) ATHENS 3230;

(C) ATHENS 3243 NOTAL

SUMMARY: FIFTH PLENARY REVIEWED PROGRESS RECORDED TO DATE IN THE VARIOUS SUBGROUPS. THE OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON US FORCES IN EFFECT SINCE SUMMER 1974 WERE DETAILED, AND A REQUEST MADE THAT THEY BE LIFTED. A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WAS DEVELOPED OMITTING ANY REF TO TATOI DTS SITE. THE FINAL PLENARY WAS SET FOR APRIL 29. END SUMMARY.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 03262 01 OF 02 281808Z

1. THE FIFTH PLENARY OPENED WITH STEARNS NOTING THAT THE

GREEK SIDE HAD RAISED A NEW ISSUE AT THE LAST PLENARY, THE FUTURE OF THE DIPLOMATIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT TATOI, AND REPORTING THAT WHILE HE HAD UNDERTAKEN TO OBTAIN A REACTION FROM WASHINGTON HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE AND COULD NOT ESTIMATE WHEN A REPLY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GOG COULD AND WOULD RAISE WHATEVER ISSUES IT CONSIDERED RELEVANT, AND ADDED THAT THE US SIDE WAS NOT RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS TATOI BUT THAT THERE WAS TOO LITTLE TIME FOR THE USG PROPERLY TO REACT TO THIS NEW ELEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. STEARNS ADVERTED TO HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED RESERVATION ABOUT MAKING PROGRESS IN ALL OTHER AREAS CONTINGENT UPON THE US SIDE GETTING A REPLY ON TATOI AND SUGGESTED THAT IF THE GREEK SIDE MAINTAINED ITS POSITION ON TATOI IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER RECESSING ROUND II WITHOUT A FORMAL STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS. STEARNS BELIEVED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BROUGHT INTO PERSPECTIVE THE SUBJECT OF OUR LONG STANDING COOPERATION IN MUTUAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, AND US MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE, WAS IMPRESSIVE AND HE VOICED THE OPINION THAT ALL AREAS OF DIFFICULTY HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AND GENERAL LINES OF AGREEMENT HAD BEEN DEFINED. ALTHOUGH THE US UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOG COULD RAISE ADDITIONAL ISSUES, STEARNS HOPED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD SHAPED THE PROPORTIONS OF THE US-GREEK RELATIONSHIP FOR A LONG TIME IN THE FUTURE.

2. STEARNS THEN TURNED TO THE AREAS THAT HAD BEEN COVERED, AND REVIEWED THE WORK THAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, AS FOLLOWS:

A. HELLENIKON - THE SUBGROUP WORK HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL IN CLARIFYING ISSUES, AND THE GREEK MEMBERS WERE BEING GIVEN A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE BASE THAT AFTERNOON TO ENABLE THEM TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS. STEARNS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT APPLYING ARBITRARY PERSONNEL CEILINGS TO THE BASE AND STATED THAT HE SAW NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING A MEETING OF THE MINDS ONCE WASHINGTON STAFFING HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

B. HOMEPORTING - THE US SIDE HAD MADE KNOWN ITS STRONG DESIRE FOR CONTINUED USE OF THE ELEFSIS PIER AFTER HOME-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ATHENS 03262 01 OF 02 281808Z

PORTING WAS TERMINATED, AND FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF GREATLY REDUCED SHIP REPAIR AND FLEET SUPPORT OFFICES. STEARNS NOTED THAT THE GREEK SIDE HAD UNDERTAKEN TO EXPLORE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES INCLUDING CONTINUED USE UNDER A DIFFERENT STATUS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH CONTINUED USE WOULD ONLY BE FEASIBLE IF THE FREQUENCY OF US SHIP VISITS WAS HIGH ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY THE COST INVOLVED AND INDICATED THAT CONTINUED PIER USE COULD HELP ALLEVIATE FINANCIAL

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING.

C. TELECOMMUNICATIONS: STEARNS REFERRED TO INFO THE US SIDE HAD PROVIDED AND TO THE DISCUSSIONS OF LOCAL TRAINING POSSIBILITIES AND PROMISED THAT GREEK COUNTER SUGGESTIONS ON COMMON USE OF THESE FACILITIES WOULD RECEIVE PROMPT AND SYMPATHETIC STAFF CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. HE INDICATED THAT IN US VIEW CONSULTATIONS ON POSSIBLE TRAINING OF GREEK PERSONNEL DID NOT HAVE TO AWAIT THE FORMAL CONCLUSION OF TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENTS OR A NEW UMBRELLA AGREEMENT.

D. SOFA: STEARNS COMMENTED ON THE GREAT VOLUME OF WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THIS SUBGROUP, AND ADDED THAT THE GREEK SIDE HAD RAISED CERTAIN QUESTIONS OTHER THAN THOSE CONCERNING

SECRET

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03262 02 OF 02 281832Z

46

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USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USDELMC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 3262

LIMDIS

US FORCES WHICH WENT BEYOND WHAT THE US SIDE WAS AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS. THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON BEFORE THEY COULD BE ADDRESSED. HE RECALLED THAT THE US SIDE HAD EXPLAINED THAT WHILE THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE BASED ON THE 1951 NATO SOFA, IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS THE 1951 AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND SUPPLEMENTED BY BILATERAL UNDERSTANDINGS, AS HAD BEEN DONE WITH OTHER NATO ALLIES, AND THESE TOO WOULD BE STUDIED IN WASHINGTON.

E. FORM OF AGREEMENT: NOTING THAT GREEK SIDE HAD PRESENTED ITS VERSION OF A NEW UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, STEARNS ACCEPTED THE NEED TO SYNTHESIZE AND MODERNIZE EXISTING AGREEMENTS, BUT INDICATED THAT WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE GREEK DRAFT AND NOTED THAT THE FINAL FORM OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD DEPEND IN PART UPON THE REDEFINED GREEK ROLE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 03262 02 OF 02 281832Z

IN NATO. PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE, THE US COULD NOT NEGOTIATE BILATERALLY GUARANTEES WHICH GREECE HAD TO NEGOTIATE WITH ALL ITS NATO ALLIES. STEARNS STATED THE US PREFERENCE WAS NOT TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE FORMER US-GREEK RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN SUPPLANTED BY A NEW ONE, BUT RATHER TO SHOW THAT THE RELATIONSHIP REMAINED STRONG AND ONLY REQUIRED UP-DATING. ALTHOUGH STEARNS NOTED THE SIGNIFICANCE THE GREEK SIDE ATTACHED TO PRODUCING A NEW AGREEMENT TO ALLAY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS, HE REITERATED THAT FROM THE US STANDPOINT, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SHOW THAT WHATEVER CHANGES WERE REQUIRED, THE BASIC RELATIONSHIP REMAINED FUNDAMENTALLY STRONG. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE US SIDE TO UNDERSTAND GREEK PROBLEMS, BUT FELT IT WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT GREECE RECOGNIZE US CONCERNS FOR THE WORLD BALANCE OF POWER AND THE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS THAT THE APPEARANCE OF A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE US-GREEK RELATIONSHIP COULD PRODUCE. STEARNS EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT BOTH GREEK AND US NEEDS COULD BE MET. HE THEN HIGHLIGHTED SPECIAL INTERNAL US PROBLEMS, SPECIFICALLY THE QUESTION OF CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OF NEW AGREEMENTS, WHICH COULD POSE DIFFICULTIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS SERVED TO EMPHASIZE THE ADVANTAGES OF MODIFYING EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS RATHER THAN DEVELOPING NEW ONES.

F. OPERATING RESTRICTIONS: STEARNS REMINDED THE GREEK SIDE THAT HE HAD SAID AT THE OUTSET THAT THE PRESENT STRUCTURE WAS SATISFACTORY TO THE US AND THAT ANY MODIFICATIONS OF THE STRUCTURE WOULD REPRESENT CONCESSIONS BY THE US. HE STATED THAT IT WOULD BE MISLEADING, HOWEVER, TO INFER FROM HIS REMARKS THAT THE US BELIEVED THAT OPERATING RELATIONS WITHIN THAT STRUCTURE WERE SATISFACTORY. HE REPORTED THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH US FORCES IN GREECE OPERATED HAD CHANGED, CITING LIMITATIONS ON SORTIES AT SOUDA BAY,

TRAINING MISSIONS AT ELEFSIS AND TANAGRA, MEDEVAC RESTRICTIONS, CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIAL EMERGENCY FLIGHTS BY 558TH ARTY GROUP HELICOPTERS, DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL MILITARY FLIGHTS, DENIAL OF USN SHIP VISITS, AND THE CANCELLATION OR ABANDONMENT OF SEVERAL USMC AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING EXERCISES. HE EMPHASIZED THE DELETERIOUS EFFECT THESE HAD HAD ON US ABILITY TO CARRY OUT MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF AREA DEFENSE IN FULFILLMENT
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SECRET

PAGE 03 ATHENS 03262 02 OF 02 281832Z

OF NATO RESPONSIBILITIES, AND URGED THAT THE RESTRICTIONS BE LIFTED. STEARNS POINTED OUT ONCE MORE THAT US PRESENCE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WAS STABILIZING, NOT THREATENING, AND STRESSED THAT IT WAS TO MUTUAL ADVANTAGE TO ENABLE THE US TO PLAY THAT STABILIZING ROLE, WHICH HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY RESTRICTIONS OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS.

3. TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF A COMMUNIQUE, STEARNS STATED THE US PREFERENCE FOR A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS WELL AS A JOINT REPORT TO NATO SIGNALLING THE END OF ROUND II AND LEAVING ROUND III AS AN OPEN ISSUE, DEPENDING UPON THE OUTCOME OF FOLLOW-ON TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND GREECE'S DISCUSSIONS WITH ITS NATO ALLIES. STEARNS NOTED THE NEED FOR AN ALTERNATIVE COURSE SHOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SET ASIDE THE TATOI ISSUE, SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY OF ADJOURNING ROUND II WITHOUT AN ANNOUNCEMENT. HE REFERRED TO THE NUMEROUS AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE NOT TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THESE ACHIEVEMENTS. STEARNS THEN TABLED THE US DRAFT REPORT TO NATO (REFTEL B) NOTING THAT IT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED WASHINGTON CLEARANCE.

4. THE PLENARY THEN RECESSED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT JOINT COMMUNIQUE, AS REPORTED REFTEL C. UPON RECONVENING, THE GREEK SIDE PROPOSED AND US SIDE AGREED TO A FINAL PLENARY MEETING AT 1000 TUESDAY 29 APRIL AT WHICH TIME GREEK COMMENTS ON THE US PRESENTATION WOULD BE MADE.
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